

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Wilby Wayne Whitt of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Wilby Wayne Whitt of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Whitt was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, an award-winning journalist and community leader, Mr. Whitt retired in 1990 as managing editor of *The Tennessean* after forty-four years of distinguished service with the newspaper, during which time he covered every beat and held every post between cub reporter and editor; and

WHEREAS, born on July 18, 1924, in Athens, Alabama, Wayne Whitt attended the University of Alabama, where he served as associate editor of the yearbook and as a reporter for the student newspaper, *The Crimson and White*; and

WHEREAS, after graduating in 1945 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Mr. Whitt embarked upon his career in the newspaper industry with United Press, covering the sports beat in Columbus, Ohio, and Cleveland, Ohio, before being named the night bureau manager in Charleston, West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 1946, Wayne Whitt joined the staff of *The Tennessean* as a reporter and spent the next thirty years providing top-flight coverage of nearly every beat, from state and local government to police and courts to education and general reporting; and

WHEREAS, he worked his way up to columnist, penned a popular column entitled "Metro Beat," which he used to push for the combination of Nashville and Davidson County into a metropolitan government system; and

WHEREAS, his years of beat reporting helped him establish an unrivaled network of sources across Nashville, gaining their trust with his integrity, dedication to fairness, and accurate reporting; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Whitt was named the managing editor of *The Tennessean* in 1976 and quickly earned the respect of every reporter who had the good fortune to work for him and benefited from his tutelage. "Get the story. Get it right, get it first, get it all," was Mr. Whitt's motto; and

WHEREAS, he was an esteemed member of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Theta Chi fraternity and served as an elder and member of Second Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Whitt received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Journalism from the University of Alabama in 1977 and was named a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitt was deeply devoted to his family and enjoyed the love and companionship of his beloved wife, Mildred. He was the proud father of two devoted children, Cindy Whitt and Wilby Wayne Whitt, Jr., and the doting grandfather of Christina Gore and Charles Castleberry; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Whitt leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Wilby Wayne Whitt, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Whitt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.